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FROM: <b>Controlling DoD Organization: Air Force [15th], Operation Analysis Section, March AFB, CA.</b>
AUTHORITY
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SECURITY INFORMATION

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE  
Operations Analysis Section

MEMORANDUM:

28 May 1944

VAR RIVER BRIDGE ATTACK, 26 MAY 1944

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SECURITY INFORMATION

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE  
Operations Analysis Section  
AFC 520 H.Q. AFHQ

20 MAY 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff, (A-3), Fifteenth Air Force.

VAN RIVER BRIDGE ATTACK, 26 MAY 1944

1. Post raid photo reconnaissance is not sufficiently clear to permit a detailed damage analysis to be made. It is reasonably certain that two hits were obtained on the bridge, one on the second span and one on the fourth span from the east end of the bridge. No spans of the bridge have collapsed.
2. Bomb strike photo (449 BG ; 4467 ; 1V1) at the beginning of the attack shows the second and fourth spans of the bridge in undamaged condition.
3. Bomb strike photo (449 BG ; 4467 ; 3V2) shows a bomb flash directly on the second span 280 feet from the east end of the bridge.
4. Bomb strike photo (449 BG ; 4467 ; 8V1) shows what appears to be a 9 foot diameter hole in the bridge surface 280 feet from the east end of the bridge. A similar hole appears on the fourth span 575 feet from the east end of the bridge.
5. Additional marks are apparent on the bridge surface in the reconnaissance photo #3C 4-15 BG/464/5 PG/26 MAY 44 but it is not possible to make positive identification.
6. Detailed information on the construction of the bridge is not available. The bridge is a deck-type, that is, all the supporting structure is beneath the deck. As nearly as can be made out from reconnaissance photos, in particular photo #3123-33 B , 26 , 3 PG , 20 Dec 43, the bridge is supported on steel trusses with details of construction as shown in attached drawing.
7. In view of the fact that this structure is a deck-type, steel-truss

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1st OPERATIONS DIVISION

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Memo, Var River Bridge Attack, 26 May 1944, CAS, 15 May 23 May 44.

bridge with trusses approximately 20 feet in depth and has a stout surface, the 0.01 seconds delay fuse should give optimum chance.

1 Incl,  
Sketch - Var River Bridge.

JOHN J. WILSON  
Actg. Deputy Chief

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LEGIBILITY FLOOR

Point of destruction - main delay fuse.

Concrete deck slab

Steel trusses 20' in depth

Point of destruction - 2nd sec. fuse

Masonry Pier

200' spans

VAR RIVER BRIDGE

OPERATIONS ANALYSIS SECTION - 27 MAY 44

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, DC

23 June 2010

HAF/IMIO (MDR)  
1000 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1000

Bobby Sammons.  
P.O. Box 1680  
Cloudcroft, NM 88317-1680

Dear Mr. Sammons

Reference to your letter, undated (attachment 1) requesting a Mandatory Declassification Review (MDR) for Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) documents:

✓AD004521	✓AD005224
✓AD005736	✓AD005735
✓AD006796	AD004876
✓AD005809	AD003234
✓AD005808	AD004232

The review for the documents have been completed and the declassification has been downgraded to UNCLASSIFIED and copies are attached for your information.

Address any questions concerning this review to the undersigned at (703) 692-9979 and refer to our case number 07-MDR-076.

Sincerely

  
JOANNE MCLEAN  
Mandatory Declassification Review Specialist

- 2 Attachments
1. Letter, Request for Documents
  2. 10 DTIC Documents

cc: DTIC w/o documents